COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus operatively coupled to a plurality of external devices for bi-directional communication therebetween comprising:

a plurality of input ports that receive audio signals from ~~a~~ the plurality of external devices;

a plurality of output ports that transmit, to said plurality of external devices, control signals for controlling the operation of said plurality of external devices, said control signals being non-audio signals;

a plurality of input channels to which audio signals are inputted from the external devices;

a plurality of operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels;

an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels;

setting means for setting, via a graphical user interface, ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of said input ports and at least one of said output ports; and

transmission control means ~~that performs~~ configured to, when ~~any~~ one of said operating elements is operated, ~~control such that the control signal is transmitted~~ control to transmit a control signal from one of the output ~~port~~ ports to one of said plurality of external devices, wherein said one of the output ports corresponds to the input port that is connected to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated ~~that correspond to the input port connected to the input channel that corresponds to the operated operating element~~.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said input patch is capable of changing the connections between said input ports and said input channels.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display that displays a screen,

wherein the display is controlled to display a screen for prompting ~~an output~~ setting of a output port for each of said input ports.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of input ports that receive audio signals from a plurality of external devices;

a plurality of output ports that transmit, to said plurality of external devices, control signals for controlling the operation of said plurality of external devices, the control signals being non-audio signals;

a plurality of input channels to which audio signals are respectively inputted from the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports;

a plurality of operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels;

an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels;

setting means for setting, via a graphical user interface, at least one of first ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of said input ports and at least one of said output ports and second ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of said input channels and at least one of said output ports;

a mode setting device that selectively sets either one of a first mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input port basis

and a second mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input channel basis; and

transmission control means ~~that performs~~ configured to, when ~~any~~ one of said operating elements is operated ~~in a state where the first mode is set~~, ~~control such that the control signal is transmitted~~ control to transmit a control signal from one of the output ~~port~~ ports to one of the plurality of external devices, wherein said one of the output ports corresponds to the input port that is connected to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated in a state where the first mode is set and said one of the output ports corresponds to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated in a state where the second mode is set. ~~which is made to correspond to the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating elements, said transmission control means performing, when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the second mode is set, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port which is made to correspond to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element~~.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a display that displays a screen,

wherein the display is controlled to ~~displays~~ display a screen for prompting ~~an output~~ setting of a output port for each of the input ports if said mode setting device sets the first mode, and ~~displays~~ display a screen for prompting ~~an output~~ setting of a output for each of the input channels if said mode setting device sets the second mode.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing a control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus operatively coupled to a plurality of external devices for bi-directional communication therebetween comprising a plurality of input ports that receive audio signals from ~~a~~ the plurality of external devices, a plurality of output ports that transmit, to said plurality of external devices, non-audio control signals for controlling the operation of said plurality of external devices, a plurality of input channels to which audio signals are inputted from the external devices , and a plurality of operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, the program causing the computer to perform the steps of:

setting connections between said input ports and said input channels;

setting, via a graphical user interface, ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of the input ports and at least one of the output ports; and

~~performing~~ controlling, when ~~any~~ one of said operating elements is operated, to transmit a non- audio control signal ~~control such that the non-audio control signal is transmitted~~ from one of the output ~~port~~ ports to one of said plurality of external devices, wherein said one of the output ports corresponds to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated ~~that~~

~~corresponds to the input port connected to the input channel that corresponds to the operated operating element~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing a control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of input ports that receive audio signals from a plurality of external devices, a plurality of output ports that transmit, to said plurality of external devices, non-audio control signals for controlling the operation of said plurality of external devices, a plurality of input channels to which audio signals are respectively inputted from the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports , and a plurality of operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, the program causing the computer the perform the steps of:

setting connections between said input ports and said input channels;

setting, via a graphical user interface, at least one of first ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of said input ports and at least one of said output ports and second ~~one-to-one~~ correspondence between each of said input channels and at least one of said output ports;

selectively setting either one of a first mode in which one of the output ports from which the non-audio control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input port basis and a second mode in which one of the output ports from which the non-audio control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input channel basis;

~~performing~~ controlling, when ~~any~~ one of said operating elements is operated ~~in a state where the first mode is set, control such that~~ to transmit ~~the~~ a non-audio control signal ~~is transmitted~~ from one of the output ~~port~~ ports to one of the plurality of external devices, wherein said one of the

output ports corresponds to the input port that is connected to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated in a state where the first mode is set and said one of the output ports corresponds to the input channel with which the operated operating element is associated in a state where the second mode is set ~~which is made to correspond to the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating elements; and~~

~~when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the second mode is set, transmitting non-audio control signal from the output port which is made to correspond to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element~~.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control signal is comprised of one of a fader-on event and a fader-off event.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control signal is comprised of one of a fader-on event and a fader-off event.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium according to claim 8, wherein the control signal is comprised of one of a fader-on event and a fader-off event.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium according to claim 9, wherein the control signal is comprised of one of a fader-on event and a fader-off event.